

The Research Director
Environment, Agriculture, Environment, Resources and Energy Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear sir, madam,

RE: Call for submissions - Strategic Cropping Land Bill 2011

How will the proposed Act ensure the preservation of the productive capacity of designated land for future generations, according to the purpose in section 3(c) when;

1) s4 (4) allows mitigation for all land in management areas where development impacts are permanent (there is a limited number of possible offsets in this dry continent)

2) s6(1)(f)(ii) allows for approved development schemes under the State development Act when that act approves such large and potentially destructive developments as private rail corridors several hundred kilometres long criss-crossing the State.

3) s11 (2) states that the protection principle **takes precedence** over all development interests while;

s11 (3) states that the avoidance principle means development must avoid SCL only if it is **reasonably practicable** to do so and

s11 (4) states minimisation means development must minimise the impacts on SCL **whenever possible** and

s11 (5) allows for mitigation offsets when the impacts of development can not be otherwise **reasonably avoided** and

S 113 allows for the executive to declare exceptional circumstances if there is significant economic benefit and that outweighs protection and

S118 allows for the same declaration if there is a significant community benefit (ie economic)

Given that s92 requires a SCL protection decision before EIS approval for the resource activity, how will this act provide any meaningful legal protection with no definition of protection nor any entrenched limitations to its demise for the current and for future generations' food security? The above mentioned discretions and defences , like the EPA provisions are more suited to protecting developers that the environment and as such the only benefit from this act is yet another layer of bureaucratic paper work which inherently privileges the well resourced corporate developers and creates further hurdles for the small farmer seeking protection. The proposed act fails to address the inevitable conflict between large corporate resource activities with their economic leveraging as the bill provides ample opportunity for the discretion to favour short term economic advantage over the stated long term purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond,

Yours sincerely,

Peter Boulot

